Navy vol 1.

CAMILLUS.

A

DIALOGUE

ON THE

NAVY.

PROPOSING

A PLAN to render that Wooden Wall, by Means which will both eaſe and extend our Commerce, the firm and perpetual BULWARK of *Great Britain*.

By the Author of GALBA.

Maturate fugam; Regique hæc dicite veſtro:
Non illi Imperium Pelagi, ſævumque Tridentem,
Sed mihi ſorte datum ——— Virg.

LONDON:
Printed for J. ROBERTS, in *Warwick-Lane.*
MDCCXLVIII.
[Price One Shilling.]

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PISO, CAMILLUS, GALBA.

PISO.

HOW beautiful is the Morning! What Colours are ſtrong enough to paint this diurnal Reſurrection of Nature; this glorious Effect of the Sun, who reſcues the lovely Face of Earth from that Emblem of Nothing, Night; and thus, as oft as he returns to our Hemiſphere, preſents us with a lively Image of Creation?——Juſt ſo, when the Almighty will'd, Worlds ſtarted into Being; and Light, at his Command, flaſh'd from the Womb of Space, and, ſwift as Thought, reveal'd an Univerſe.

Cam. One would think, that the very Sight of the Park inſpired you with Poetry,

Piſo; ſince we no ſooner enter at the Gate, but your Style, in a manner, ceaſes to be Proſe.

Galb. Such are the Meditations, which the cool and temperate Morning ſuggeſts to well-diſpos'd Minds: Then Virtue chiefly wakes to confirm and comfort the Good, as well as to reprove and reform the Vicious. Moſt happy thoſe, who, like *Piſo*, devote this Youth of the Day to Reflections of ſuch a ſolemn Sort; to Buſineſs which ſuits the Dignity of human Nature.

Piſ. Let us ſtop here, Gentlemen: From this delightful Eminence we can beſt ſee the Grandeur and Proportions of that immenſe Building, which, truly magnificent in itſelf, derives a great Advantage from the Nobleneſs of the Situation. The River, the Park, the whole Proſpect, ſets it off, and recommends it to the particular Notice of the Eye: Juſt as a very fine Landſcape, by putting the Spectator in a good Humour, diſpoſes him to diſcern the Beauties of ſome conſpicuous Part, on which the Painter has exerted the principal Effort of his Genius.

Cam. Would not a Foreigner, unacquainted with our Maritime Affairs, at the firſt Sight of *Greenwich* Hoſpital, conclude, that a Nation, which provides ſuch a princely Retirement for their worn-out Seamen of the loweſt Claſs, pays, doubtleſs, in all other reſpects, the ſtricteſt Regard to their Naval Intereſt? Was this the Caſe, he might with

Reaſon

Reaſon pronounce our Fleet invincible; and, if a Subject of *France*, he would tremble at the Deſcription. But how greatly muſt it aſtoniſh, as well as pleaſe him, to find, that no Set of Men upon Earth are more improperly treated by their Country, than the moſt eſſential Bulwark of *Great Britain*, our Men of the Sea!

When I conſider the Thing in this Light, I ſincerely deſpiſe that ſplendid Impoſition, that enormous Thing of Shew, which may juſtly be compared to certain Monuments erected for illuſtrious Authors, who were, in their Life-time, ſhamefully neglected. That ſome modern Patrons of Wit and Literature ſhould pay this cheap and ſuperfluous Compliment to the Dead, while living Merit altogether eſcapes their Obſervation and Countenance, is a Reproach which affects only particular Perſons; and perhaps one might with Eaſe account for their voluntary Blindneſs, and partial Taſte: But what ſhall we ſay for this national Impropriety, this abſurd and expenſive Monument of our Regard to Shew, not Subſtance; in an Affair eſpecially, where the Public is ſo deeply concern'd?

Piſ. The Manner in which you begin, or rather ruſh upon your Subject, without waiting to be put in mind of your Promiſe, deſerves our Commendation and Thanks.

Galb. We muſt at leaſt allow, *Camillus*, that the Purpoſe for which this noble Edifice was ſaid to be deſigned, is highly laudable:

Since who ſo ſoon as Seamen, worn out or diſabled in his Majeſty's Service, have a Right to claim a Proviſion from the Public, proportionable to their Merit and Rank? With regard to the Size and Magnificence of the Structure, ſurely to the Grandeur of the Nation ſomewhat is due.

Cam. Where the Grandeur of the Nation does not interfere with its true Greatneſs and Intereſt, I'm for making what Allowance you pleaſe, *Galba*. But when I ſee the main eſſential Point groſly neglected, without the Motive, or even the Pretence of Oeconomy, while Sums, ſufficient to have compaſs'd it, are abſurdly miſapplied to falſe and pompous Appearances; I confeſs it fills me with Indignation.

Whether this Manner of maintaining a ſmall Part of our ſuperannuated Seamen, in an unprofitable and tireſome State of Idleneſs, was the wiſeſt Plan that could be deviſed, is a Queſtion which perhaps we ſhall determine elſewhere. In the mean time, if we take it for granted, that ſuch a Sort of Indolence is the fitteſt Reward for their former Fatigues and long Servitude at Sea; ſhould not the moſt material and firſt Object of our Attention have been to provide a Fund that might anſwer the Purpoſe effectually? The Treaſure laviſhly laid out on that ſuperfluous Building would, perhaps, if added to the Fund for Maintenance, have ſo far exceeded the Demands of the Navy, that,

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in the List of Pensioners, Numbers of those forlorn Wretches might have been admitted, who, grown old and feeble in the great and important Service of Trade, without any Provision made for them, to the Reproach of their Owners and the Nation, must either beg or starve.

Gath. Although the Subject you touch upon, *Camillus*, would require to be discuss'd more at large; as you wave this at present, and hasten, I perceive, to somewhat else; I shall forbear to start Obstructions in your Way.

Cam. Happy would it be for the Navy, were only superannuated Seamen mock'd with the Name, and specious Outside, of an ample Provision. Unfortunately, the Grievance is of a more general Extent, and, in some measure, affects all Ranks.

To begin with the Lowest: The Wages of a Seaman in his Majesty's Service, if paid in such a Manner as that himself, or his Family, might reap the full and seasonable Benefit thereof, are unexceptionable good Encouragement. But if, as it often happens, he shall serve Years without receiving Sixpence; and if his Pay-Ticket, when delivered to him, will frequently not fetch him much more than one Half of its supposed Value; these are glaring Proofs of his melancholy Situation.

Much Humour and Wit are displayed in the Description of a Sailor. Courage itself

is not reckon'd a more eſſential Characteriſtic, than his cheap Regard for Money. To divert and aſtoniſh People, a thouſand facetious Stories are told of his wanton and contemptuous Profuſion. Leſt Landmen ſhould, in the Wiſdom of their Occonomy, begin to believe, at laſt, that even the Name and Hopes of Wages are unneceſſary; they muſt give me Leave to tell them, that this odd Animal, this Subject of their Mirth, and Guardian of their Liberties, is never without human Paſſions, and has often a ſurpriſing Share of human Virtues. For Example: He reveres, and, according to his Circumſtances, readily relieves, an antient and needy Parent: He tenderly loves the Wife or Miſtreſs of his Boſom, and to his Children proves an affectionate Father. To ſupply the little Wants of his Family, like a diligent and worthy Member of the Commonwealth, he chearfully ſubmits to the great and various Hardſhips of his Profeſſion: From this honeſt Motive, he traverſes the whole Globe with Pleaſure, regards not the ſudden and pernicious Change of Climates, thinks unwholſome Nouriſhment a Feaſt, and forgets that he breathes the peſtilent Air of the Sea.

When employ'd by the Merchants, during the Courſe of a long Voyage, he has generally the Comfort of knowing, that Part of his Wages will be paid at home, as his Letter of Attorney ſhall direct; which contri-

butes greatly to ſet his Heart at Eaſe, as well as his Family. A ſtrange Hardſhip is indeed frequently put upon him in foreign Ports, where they compel him to receive a certain Proportion of his Wages, with the large Diſcount of Currency. Little and unfair Advantages are likewiſe taken of him, with regard to ſuch Neceſſaries as he cannot do without, and which he wants ready Money to purchaſe for himſelf: He pays too dear for his Credit. Yet ſtill, when he returns Home, he receives in Sterling Coin the Balance due. This, being generally by far the moſt conſiderable Part of his Wages, enables him to put his Affairs in good Order. Like a Prince, he refreſhes himſelf after the Fatigues of his Voyage, till, having ſufficiently gratify'd his domeſtic Inclinations, and renew'd his Stock of Health, his Intereſt again prompts him to the Purſuit of Profit and Preferment in his Buſineſs.

How widely different is a Seaman's Situation in the Navy! Kept abroad often for an unlimited Term of Years; without Money, without Credit, and, conſequently, without the chief Neceſſaries and Refreſhments of Life; he might perhaps look upon theſe as tolerable Hardſhips: But with what Patience can he reflect on the forlorn and helpleſs Condition of his Family, to whom he can remit no Relief in their Diſtreſs? That ſingle Subject of Vexation is enough to break his Spirit, and his Heart; or elſe to ruin his Conſti-

Conſtitution and Morals, by driving him into ſuch criminal Exceſſes, as wiſer Men often deliberately commit, in order to ſuſpend Care, and eaſe the Rack of Reflection. Should his Conſtitution and Spirits, ſtrong as Braſs, and firmer than the naval Oak he treads upon, triumph over a Length of Wants, and the War of Elements; not even at his Return can he, with any Certainty, depend on receiving his dearly-earn'd Wages; beſides that it may be too late to retrieve the calamitous State of his Affairs, and to cure the wild Havock of Neceſſity. To make uſe of a proper Compariſon here, his Situation may reſemble a Ship, which, for want of cheap and timely Repairs, comes, in a few Years, to be ſo thoroughly defective, that it will coſt very near as much to refit as to rebuild her.

Piſ. Our Seamen in general are reputed the moſt inconſiderate and laviſh Prodigals upon Earth. When ſpeaking of this Subject, People ſeldom fail to remark, with a Face of Wiſdom, that their Extravagance, how criminal ſoever, and fooliſh in them, is of the greateſt Uſe and Conſequence to the Public; becauſe it diſables them from living long aſhore at their Eaſe, and compels them to do the moſt neceſſary Work of the Nation. The Truth of this Aſſertion is what I was rather at a Loſs to comprehend, than willing to believe. Your Opinion,

Camillus,

Camillus, ſhall ſerve as the future Standard of mine.

Cam. Several other Maxims relating to Sea-Affairs, not better founded than this in Fact or Reaſon, are often implicitly ſwallow'd by Men of Senſe, who, wanting the Means of Information, are ſlow to contradict; eſpecially where the Pomp of an unanimous Opinion boldly challenges, and, in ſome meaſure, ſtorms their Belief. I remember it was ſome time before my Friend *Galba* could be ſet right in the very Particular you mention.

Galb. Excuſe me, *Camillus*: I never yet imagin'd that the two great Vices of Intemperance and Prodigality could ceaſe to produce fatal Effects in Houſes, Ships, Cities, or Kingdoms. I will indeed own, that, till Experience itſelf convinced me, I was deceived by the general Character of our Seamen; whom I concluded to be, beyond all Example, void of Thought or Oeconomy.

Cam. Not even in that Article could your Ignorance and Miſtake proceed from any thing elſe but an extreme Want of Attention. Setting aſide that Characters of this Sort, whether apply'd to particular Sets of Men, or to whole Countries in general, are conſtantly looſe, and liable to Diſputes, on account of the numberleſs Exceptions neceſſary to be made; it amazes me, *Galba*, that a Reflection, obvious to the mereſt

Landman, ſhould have eſcaped a Perſon of your Sagacity.

All the World well knows, that in the Navy many Commiſſion-Officers, ſome even of the firſt Rank, have riſen from the loweſt. By far the moſt conſiderable Part of thoſe in inferior Stations, tho' not always the fitteſt that might be choſen, are evidently ſprung from the ſame Original. This I think a convincing Proof, that Seamen in general have among them a larger Fund than is ſuppoſed of Diſcretion and Sobriety; without at leaſt a tolerable Share or Appearance of which, ſcarcely could the Caprice of Fortune raiſe and ſupport a Man void of Intereſt.'

In the Merchants Service, the principal Source, and, as it were, the great Womb of Seamen, the Caſe is ſtill ſtronger; becauſe there the Proportion of Officers immenſely multiplies. Nine in Ten of theſe have ſerv'd before the Maſt; and afterwards ow'd their gradual Riſe to their diſcreet Behaviour, and Diligence in their Station: A Truth which, as ſoon as propoſed to you, muſt at all times have gained your immediate Aſſent.

To this powerful Check of Intereſt, to this Ambition, inſeparable from Man, of bettering, as faſt as poſſible, his Situation and Circumſtances, if we join the domeſtic Care of a Family, which more or leſs weighs with the worſt of Reprobates; either

ther the general Character of Seamen, eſpecially when married, is falſe; or we muſt ſuppoſe them, by the partial Curſe of Heaven, not only diveſted of Reaſon, but likewiſe of the moſt eſſential Paſſions and Principles of human Nature.

That the great Generality ſhould have overlook'd ſuch apparent Truths for Ages, does not much ſurpriſe me; becauſe it has never yet been the general Faſhion to think. There is a cheaper Sort of Wiſdom that People pick up at Second-hand, in the Form of Maxims; which, as it coſts them but little, they profuſely ſcatter in Converſation; and often, by the Pomp and Authority of Numbers, equally confound the Fool and the Man of Senſe. As I do not know a Perſon of a better Underſtanding than yourſelf, *Galba*, you muſt give me Leave, in the preſent Caſe, to quote you for an Example.

Galb. I have admitted already the Juſtice of your Rebuke, *Camillus:* But as for the Compliment with which you ſeem to ſoften it, I muſt not allow you to laugh at me for ſwallowing that: 'Tis a fair Stroke of Raillery.

Cam. At preſent I am not in an Humour for raillying; neither ſhall I take any Pains to perſuade you that my Compliment is, perhaps, more ſerious than my Cenſure. We have other Work on our Hands. The Friend of Seamen, *Piſo*, muſt, if poſſible, be fully

convinced that the general Opinion of the World does them great Injuſtice.

From mine own Knowlege, appealing to yours as a Voucher, I therefore affirm, that no Set of Men, in the ſame Rank of Life, are leſs addicted to the Vice of Intemperance. Next to the Names of Coward and Thief, and another not fit to be mentioned, the Name of Sot is the moſt opprobrious at Sea. Few, comparatively ſpeaking, have I ſeen in the Navy, who ſtrictly deſerv'd it. They will indeed, at times, when ſtrong Temptations come in their Way, tranſgreſs the nice Rules of Moderation in this reſpect; and ſurely they, conſidering their Confinement, Situation, Diet, are of all Men the moſt excuſable. It has been my conſtant Obſervation, that, during the Courſe of ſuch Irregularities, they are never leſs happy, nor leſs pleas'd with themſelves; and that then their Satisfaction and Spirits are higheſt when a neceſſary Temperance prevails.

The great and incurable Sots of the Navy, the Diſeaſe and Reproach of the Service, are thoſe Swarms of low vicious Landmen, who, by their Idleneſs and Extravagance, having waſted their Subſtance and Conſtitutions, unfit for Labour, and void of Credit, betake themſelves to the Sea for their laſt Reſource and Shelter. That Vermin of the Shore, which our great Demand for Men, and the Difficulty we find to procure better, on account

of

of Diſcouragements, oblige us to receive, are voraciouſly given to Liquors, eſpecially thoſe of a ſpirituous Kind; having, for a Courſe of Years often, like the fabulous Salamander, fed on Fire. Sometimes, by their profligate Example, they corrupt, but more frequently, by their contagious Breath and Diſtempers, infect and poiſon, the diſcreet and healthful Seaman: of which I myſelf have ſeen dreadful Inſtances.

As I think this a proper Place, and eſpecially ſince it will contribute greatly to the Purpoſe in hand; I muſt inform *Piſo*, that our North-country Seamen are our Right Hand in the Service of Trade, as well as the principal Foundation and Support of our Naval Vigour. Brought up at a Diſtance from this Seat and Centre of Luxury, where Intemperance and idle Women corrupt and enervate all Ranks of Youth, particularly the poor and uninſtructed; theſe hardy Sons of Nature imbibe early Principles of Religion and Virtue, which even bad Examples and Company can ſeldom intirely get the better of: They contract Habits of Sobriety, Diligence, and Oeconomy, which diſpoſe and qualify them for domeſtic Life; and, in times of Peace, as the Ships to which they belong generally return at certain Periods to the ſame Ports, their little Families are conveniently ſettled there, and duly reap the Fruits of their Induſtry.

Their

Their Situation in Ships of War, as has already been obſerved, lies under ſuch Diſcouragements, that few will enter voluntarily. Great Numbers of them are indeed dragg'd into the Service; who, ſo long as we can keep them, diſtinguiſh themſelves by their good Behaviour in all Shapes, and on all Occaſions. It is ridiculous to fancy, that ſober Seamen, of a ſound Principle, ſhould not far excel others of a different Stamp: and yet ſuch a wild want of Thought do many diſcover, that they give the Preference to the latter in their Opinion; to raſh and unthinking Reprobates, to Prodigals, to Drunkards: for ſuch are the Colours in which they paint their Maritime Heroes.

I ſhall neither attempt to prove by Reaſon, or Examples, the pernicious Effects which low Luxury muſt neceſſarily produce in Armies or Fleets. A greater Inſult could not be well offered to ſenſible Men, than to pretend to convince them of ſuch a glareing Truth. But there is another Obſervation which I think leſs unſeaſonable; becauſe it does not always occur, even to them, on, this Subject. To contend with the ſevere and unavoidable Hardſhips of a Sea-Life, the Length of Voyages, the Change of Climates, and the perpetual Courſe of Salt Proviſions, a Fund of Health and Conſtitution is required; for want of which, Ships of War frequently return from a ſhort Cruize unmann'd by Sickneſs. Thoſe arrant Gin-

drinkers,

drinkers, with which the Shore ſo plentifully ſupplies them, having waſted the Bottom of Nature, are unable to bear up againſt the ſlighteſt Hardſhip or Indiſpoſition; eſpecially becauſe in a great meaſure depriv'd of their vital Cup. Unfed by this, the diſeas'd Remainder, their dying Snuff of Life, is generally conſumed in Hammocks and Hoſpitals; and their Names in the Muſter-Books only ſerve to diſprove the falſe Calculations which we fondly make of our Sea-Strength.——I am far from objecting, *Piſo*, to young and wholſome Landmen, who, with proper Pains, may ſoon be render'd uſeful: But the great Misfortune is, that even theſe, by the well-known Diſcouragements of the Service, are juſtly deterr'd from engaging in it.

While Things remain on the preſent diſaſtrous and unequitable Footing; while Seamen have ſuch lamentable Cauſes to complain of their Situation and Treatment in the Navy; we muſt not wonder, that the ſole Method of Manning our Fleet ſhould be that of Compulſion and Violence. That our Sailors are endow'd, in a more eminent Degree than their Countrymen of the ſame Rank, with a lively Regard to the Nation's Honour and Name in War, is, I think, equally certain, tho' perhaps not ſo fairly confeſs'd, as their ſuperior Share of Boldneſs and Intrepidity. Was their Encouragement ſuitable to their Merit and juſt Pretenſions,

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if their Hardſhips were even tolerable; they would, I believe, from a pure Motive of Zeal and public Spirit, be ready to liſt on all Occaſions, when their real Service was required; againſt the *French* eſpecially, to whom they bear an invincible Hatred. But to give up intirely the Thoughts of their preſent and future Intereſt, to loſe all Care and Conſideration of what is deareſt to Men, would be too great as well as too wicked a Sacrifice for human Nature. Hence it happens, that the moſt aſtoniſhing Practice which was ever ſet afoot in a free Country, the general Practice of Impreſſing, has long taken Place in the freeſt.

It is with infinite Pain and Reluctancy that I find myſelf obliged to ſpeak on this unſavoury Subject; becauſe I ſincerely think no Part of our Conduct ſo groſly liable to Cenſure. Conſidering the generous and extenſive Freedom of our Conſtitution, which, like Air and Sunſhine, aims at being diffus'd over all, and even abhors to ſee the Curſe of Servitude inflicted as a Puniſhment on the greateſt Criminals; muſt it not appear ſtrange, that the chief Champions of our Independency ſhould themſelves approach the neareſt to that opprobrious State? You will ceaſe to think the Reflection harſh, *Piſo*, when you duly weigh the Violence done to their Perſons, and the Manner in which this of courſe affects their Health, Intereſt, and Property. The Force put upon their Incli-

nations

nations is a Point which I ſhall wave at preſent, becauſe I know you might immediately reply, that the Public has an indiſputable Right to their neceſſary Swords. Let me remark only, that if the Public has ſuch an abſolute Need of them, they likewiſe have a Title to be treated with Equity, Gratitude, and Kindneſs. Why, let me rather ask this honeſt Queſtion; Why does not their Country liſten to their loud Complaints, redreſs their ſhameful Wrongs, and reward the viſible Importance of their Station with ſuch Advantages as might at all times ſecure their voluntary Service?

How far their Health, and frequently their Life, is affected by the Practice we ſpeak of, a Moment's ſerious Reflection will diſcover. Seamen, impreſs'd at their Return from a long Voyage, have, by the natural Courſe of Cauſes, a Scorbutic Habit of Blood; which nothing but the medicinal Air of the Shore can amend or rectify. What then muſt the Caſe and Conſequences be, when ſuch, without being ſuffer'd to ſet a Foot on their native Land, are, as it will often happen, hurried back directly to Sea, and kept there for Months together? We muſt reckon thoſe that have periſh'd thus, by Thouſands.

Should they live to be carried on Shore in a deſperate Condition, as the Diſtemper yields ſurpriſingly, not to Medicines and Art, but to that balſamic Air, which Heaven has

wonderfully fitted for the Breath of Man; a Month's healing Reſpiration, together with Herbs, and wholſome Nouriſhment, may perhaps ſet them up in a manner to ſeem able for a freſh Conflict with the Sea. But Common Senſe, as well as Phyſic, muſt inform us, that a greater Length of Time is required to remedy ſuch a violent Concuſſion of Nature, and to repair the Damage done to the delicate Juices and Chanels of Life.

One thing contributes extremely to this Havock of Health, their everlaſting Confinement, even in Harbours. So great an Oppoſition is there between their Intereſt and their Situation, that, in order to prevent their running away, we find ourſelves obliged to treat them like Priſoners, like Felons. To their immortal Honour it muſt nevertheleſs be granted, that ſo long as a Fragment of their Vigour and Conſtitution is leſt, when the ſolemn Hour of Battle comes, if their Officers only behave with Spirit, they never fail to ſecond them with an Ardour and a Steadineſs of Courage, which the *Romans* themſelves would have admired: and ſhall *Britain* ſeem to puniſh rather than reward it? I'm weary of the Subject, *Galba*. That Man has neither Friendſhip nor Compaſſion in him, who can bear to draw ſuch a melancholy Picture with Patience.

Galb. The moſt gloomy Part of the Deſcription is paſt, *Camillus*. One might, I confeſs, dwell upon the Subject longer: but

it would only be wearing it out to no Purpoſe, and foreſtalling thoſe Remarks which a ſenſible Hearer muſt neceſſarily make in his own Mind.

Piſ. Should their Intereſt and Property ſuffer in an equal Degree with their Health and Conſtitutions; I ſhall, without Scruple, pronounce them to be the moſt injur'd Race of Men upon Earth.

Cam. The firſt Obſervation I ſhall make, however plain and obvious it may ſeem, does nevertheleſs in Converſation ſeldom occur; at leaſt is ſeldom ſufficiently conſider'd. A Sailor's principal Views in going to Sea, if we ſuppoſe him endow'd with the ſmalleſt Share of Reaſon, are Profit and Preferment; the latter eſpecially: becauſe this includes as well as increaſes the former, and thereby lays a Foundation for a ſeaſonable Retreat from a laborious and harſh Scene of Life to the general and avow'd Wiſh of human Nature, a State of Eaſe and Plenty.

——*Senes ut in Otia tuta recedant.*

Fortune, when ſhe chooſes to ſport herſelf, is above all Rules in the Diſtribution of her Favours; and will therefore exalt mean Men beyond their Hopes, and without their Aſſiſtance. But there is no truſting to ſuch a capricious Chance, which comes to few, and loves to come unlook'd

for. The moſt ſenſible and likely Scheme for a Seaman to riſe in the Merchants Service, by the ſingle Recommendation of Merit, is to continue long with the ſame Officers and Owners. He will thus acquire a Fund of Character, and a Title to Truſt and Preferment, which no Stranger of his Rank, tho' perhaps in Reality more deſerving, can poſſibly claim. To ſuch a Perſon, this Fund of Character, this probable Baſis of future Wealth, may be juſtly look'd upon as the moſt valuable Part of his Property.

Can you conceive a more evident Injury, *Piſo*, than to drag a Man from his Friends and Patrons, whoſe Favour and Eſteem his long and faithful Service has procured; and this perhaps at a time too when they wait only for an Opportunity to prefer him? Muſt not the Caſe appear ſtill more aſtoniſhing, ſhould neither the firſt nor ſecond Degrees of Preferment prove ſufficient to protect him from ſuch an unconſtitutional Act of Violence? When a Seaman's painful Servitude is paſt; when he draws near, in Expectation, to that Rank which had long been the reaſonable Object of his Ambition; while, if a Father or Husband, he hugs the dear and virtuous Hope of making a competent Proviſion for his Family; to be ſnatch'd away from that Situation and Proſpect, and, as it were, reduced to begin the World afreſh, on a worſe Footing than at firſt; he muſt be more than a Philoſopher who can

ſubmit to this, without high Reſentment and Indignation; and an arrant Proſtitute in point of Senſe, who ſhall attempt to prove, that any Government upon Earth can exert ſuch a Power with either Juſtice or good Policy. My Heart bleeds at the Remembrance of the many diſtreſsful Scenes of this Sort to which I myſelf have been a melancholy Witneſs; and of which my Station ſometimes compell'd me to be the miſerable Inſtrument.

Was it the Cuſtom for People to bring the Caſe home to themſelves, my next Obſervation would have a great and general Weight. To compel Seamen to ſerve, in the manner ſpoken of, is hard; but to compel them to ſerve for One Half, perhaps not more than One Third, of the Wages which they receive from the Merchants, will bear a ſtill harſher Conſtruction.

I know what is commonly ſaid in Anſwer to this Complaint. On one Side, the Riſk that Merchant-Ships run in Times of War, and the precarious Footing of Wages, which depend upon their ſafe Return, are ſtrongly repreſented: over and above an abſolute Security for Wages, on the other Side, much Streſs is laid on the Chance of Prize-Money. Theſe Conſiderations are, I confeſs, not immaterial: they would require a large Abatement to be made in the Diſproportion talk'd of, if the Government Pay was punctual as well as certain. But as the great Grievance

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in this Reſpect, already ſufficiently pointed out, more than counterbalances every thing; we may, without a nice and needleſs Calculation, affirm, that a Seaman's Encouragement in the Merchants Service, whilſt the War continues, is at leaſt double to what he can in general expect from the preſent Practice and Situation of the Navy.

Let us only ſuppoſe, that the Government was to treat other Sets of Men with the ſame Rigour; and to conſtrain them, by forcible Means, to ſerve the Public for half their Price and Profits; for Example, Carpenters, Maſons, Money-Lenders; ſince the ſame Plea, *viz.* the Neceſſities of the Nation, muſt alike affect all, the Rich eſpecially; what a dreadful Outcry would this raiſe about Liberty, Property, *Magna Charta*, Juſtice! Will any Perſon pretend to give a Reaſon why Seamen ſhould be ſingled out for a Victim to National Oeconomy? Surely the Maxim, if prudent, juſt, proper, ſhould have an univerſal Scope. But ſuch is the general Littleneſs of Man, that, while the Danger is diſtant from himſelf, the Diſtreſs of others ſlightly touches him: as ſoon as his own Intereſt comes to be threatened with Calamities of the like ſort; Self-Love rouzes, and, aſhamed of its native Complexion, wears the Maſk of public Spirit and Humanity. Thus it is that People aſhore look with Unconcern on the Grievances of Sailors, as Complaints which can produce no

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bad Conſequence with regard to themſelves: Fools, not to conſider the Danger of oppreſſive Precedents, exerciſed in any Shape, for any Pretence whatever, on any Claſs of their Fellow-Subjects! I could quote another Example of a remarkable Kind; but the Humour of the Times will not bear it: and I would not unneceſſarily ſhock my dear and partial Countrymen.

Galb. You ſeem to forget that the chief or ſole Cauſe of ſuch high Wages in Merchant Ships is the very Grievance you complain of. I might therefore obſerve to you, *Camillus*, that, as doubtleſs it diſtreſſes many, many likewiſe reap the Benefit thereof, inaſmuch as it apparently doubles their Price and Encouragement.

Cam. At firſt Sight your Obſervation, *Galba*, ſeems well-grounded: when cloſely conſidered, it errs fundamentally. But thus it will often happen to People who ſpeak upon Subjects not ſufficiently weighed by them. Truth, in the preſent as well as moſt Caſes, if pointed out properly, carries Conviction along with it; and every Man wonders how the Glare of Evidence eſcaped himſelf ſo long. The Reaſon I think plain: Probability, the Mimic of Truth, too frequently ſupplies its Place with indolent and unſearching Minds; who, to ſhun the Fatigue of Enquiry, reſt eaſily ſatisfied with the firſt plauſible Opinions that occur.

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So far is the Practice of Impreſſing from being the chief or ſole Cauſe of ſuch extraordinary Wages, that it rather limits them than otherwiſe. Was the Navy to procure Seamen by the Terms of good Treatment, punctual Pay, ſuitable Rewards; nothing but a very conſiderable Difference of Profit could, in that Caſe, tempt a Perſon endowed either with Spirit or Prudence, to prefer their Service to the King's.

The true Caſe and Cauſe, *Galba*, the whole Root of the Diſtemper and Calamity muſt apparently conſiſt in the prodigious Scarcity, the Dearth of Seamen, which War, or a ſudden Alarm of War, occaſions. Till ſuch Time as this eſſential Defect comes to be remedy'd in ſome Shape and Meaſure; till a greater Number of Hands is employ'd and kept in a conſtant Readineſs; we can, by no poſſible Scheme or Device, man our Fleet, without infinitely diſtreſſing the Merchants, and clogging the Wheels of Trade. This Conſideration is, I think, itſelf of ſuch great and evident Importance, that, if the Complaints of Sea-faring People were wholly ſet aſide, it would alone require the ſtricteſt Attention of the Legiſlature.

Before I begin particularly to point out the Remedy which, as it appears to me, common Senſe and the Nature of the Diſeaſe have long ago preſcribed; I ſhall proceed, according to the Plan laid down at

firſt; and briefly mention the Diſcouragements to which Officers, as well as Seamen, are ſubjected in his Majeſty's Navy.——

With regard to petty Officers (for I would aſcend regularly) the Remarks already made ſuit them in general. Such of them indeed as are deſigned for Commiſſions, have too ſlender a Proviſion in point of Pay; beſides the common Inconvenience of not even receiving that for Years often after it becomes due. They can neither afford, upon the preſent Footing, to make a Figure on board ſuitable to their Birth and Expectations; nor, which is ſtill more neceſſary, to keep proper Company aſhore, without being a great Expence and Burden to their Friends. Theſe are Points of higher Importance than People uſually ſuppoſe; ſince the Spirit of an Officer, and his Way of Thinking, on which his future Conduct, and the Nation's Honour, in eſſential Caſes, will depend; are then chiefly to be form'd. Indeed when they come once to be rated Maſters Mates, which has of late very commendably grown to be the Faſhion; though the Title is ſomewhat ungenteel, their Encouragement ought leſs to be found fault with; in a Time of War eſpecially; becauſe then their Share in Prize-Money muſt be look'd upon as conſiderable.

Such Warrant-Officers as have a conſtant and ſettled Proviſion made for them in the Ships of War to which they belong, cannot

with juſt Cauſe complain; if they were only paid in a Manner that would procure them a ſufficient Credit on tolerable Terms. I ſhould perhaps except Purſers; if I was Maſter of the Subject: but ſince it ſeems there is a Society form'd for repreſenting their Grievances, which the preſent Board of Admiralty ſhews a very gracious Diſpoſition to redreſs; I ſhall leave the Task to themſelves. Surgeons wiſely ſet them this Example, and cannot therefore be ſuppoſed to ſtand in need of an Advocate. I wiſh them all the Succeſs they can reaſonably deſire, and ſhould be glad, for the great Good of the Service, to ſee their Encouragement equal to the Conſequence of their Station.

To conclude my Remarks on the Situation of Warrant-Officers, why ſhould not Maſters, as the ſtanding Pilots of the Navy, be kept in conſtant Pay? They muſt be put on a different Footing in Times of Peace, and have a much better Chance for Preferment in War, if we would find unexceptionable good Men for that important Office.

A Lieutenant's full Wages, was the great and general Grievance of ſlow Payment removed, are perhaps a competent Proviſion, while they laſt; at leaſt I ſhall ſuppoſe them ſuch. 'Tis his Half-Pay which I find Fault with, as unſuitable and inſufficient for his Rank and Neceſſities. His Station, in Point

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of Honour, and in Point of Conſequence to the Public, is not beneath a Perſon of the firſt Quality; but, when not in Commiſſion, his Salary would be ſcarce enough for an Exciſeman, and too little for the loweſt Clerk of an Office. The World nevertheleſs expects that he ſhould not only behave, but live like a Gentleman. I ſhould be glad to know, *Piſo*, where muſt a Sea-Lieutenant live, even if a ſingle Man, and what Sort of Company can he propoſe to keep on an Allowance of Two Shillings, or at moſt of Half a Crown a Day? Should he prove the Father of a Family, which will often happen; ſince there is no ſufficient Bar againſt the mighty Courſe and Paſſions of Nature, his diſtreſsful Caſe needs no Deſcription.

Let his Circumſtances be what they will, without directly forfeiting his ſmall Allowance, he cannot engage in any Sort of Buſineſs to mind them. I ſhall take it for granted that the Dignity of the Service requires this; but you muſt give me Leave to remark at the ſame Time, that a more *Egyptian* Task cannot well be thought of, than to bid Men ſtarve with Dignity.

Did the ſevere Hardſhip in queſtion affect but few, come ſeldom, and only continue for a ſhort While; mere Reverence to the Public would ſilence my Complaints on this Head: But ſince, except a new Regulation is made, it muſt in all Probability ſoon be

the general Fate of Lieutenants; it is high Time to ſollicit loudly for Redreſs. Unleſs that is obtained, to them Peace, the Child of Heaven, the Deſire of Nations, the Mother of Plenty, Peace, muſt not only come as an unwelcome Gueſt, but, as the Siſter and Companion of Poverty, be received with Imprecations.

After a Perſon has been, for a long Courſe of Years, perhaps, numb'd by Neceſſity, rack'd with domeſtic Wants and Cares, perplex'd and prey'd upon by rapacious and unfeeling Uſurers; what Spirit or Service can his Country look for at his Hands? Such a Sort of Life and Situation too frequently begets low Vices, and a Meanneſs of Thinking which renders People not leſs unfit for Obedience than unworthy of Command. When the Rage of the *Britiſh* Lion comes to be marr'd and muzzl'd in this Manner, it may well not prove a Match ſometimes for the generous Maſtiffs of *France*.

Piſ. Your laſt Remark recalls to my Mind, *Camillus*, an Obſervation which I have often heard made, *viz.* that a Sea-Officer's Encouragement in our Service far exceeds a *French* Officer's of the ſame Rank. So great the Diſproportion, that I queſtion much whether our Half-Pay does not at leaſt equal their full Wages. A proper Allowance is, I confeſs, due to the different Price which Proviſions bear in the two Countries, and

to the different Expence of Living in all reſpects: but I'm apt to think, when every Conſideration is fairly ſtated on both Sides, that their Encouragement will be found to fall extremely ſhort of ours. If ſo, the Conſequence is plainly not in favour of your Objection.

Cam. I'm glad you have ſtarted this ſpecious Argument, *Piſo*; which, unweigh'd, unſcrutiniz'd, uncontroverted, has long been deem'd a ſterling Anſwer to ſuch as maintain that the Proviſion made for our Commiſſion-Officers, in Times of Peace, is ſcanty. Setting aſide the Royal Article of a Table kept for Officers on board the King of *France*'s Ships, there is, I believe, a groſs Miſtake as to the very Fact of Wages; which I ſhall not ſtop to ſift: being willing that your Argument ſhould appear in its utmoſt Force.

Shall we reckon it a ſufficient Reaſon or Excuſe for our treating Seamen ill, that *France*, or other Nations in *Europe*, treat them worſe? Wiſdom and true Policy, to ſuch a Maritime People as ourſelves, muſt preſcribe a very different Conduct. Conſidering how much our whole Happineſs, and the very Being of the Commonwealth, depends upon the good Plight of the Navy; not to leave a ſingle Grievance, nor one ſolid Cauſe of Complaint, in this, ought ſurely to be the ſecond, if not the firſt, Care of *Britain*.

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There is, beſides, a remarkable Diſtinction neceſſary to be put between *French* and *Engliſh* Officers. I ſhall ſuppoſe, with you, that the Wages of the former are lighter in the Scale: But then, which has eſcaped your Obſervation, they ſtand upon a better Footing in another valuable reſpect. In ſpight even of Poverty, their Commiſſion, *Piſo*, procures them great Honour among their own Countrymen; by Cuſtom taught to revere Birth and Rank above Worth or Riches. The Caſe is far otherwiſe in *Great Britain*; where Opulence and Liberty prevail, and Luxury the Child of both. Here Wealth is Worth, Birth, Honour, every thing: and neither Title, Station, nor Merit, can ſave a State of Indigence from Contempt and Ridicule. As we reſemble the *Romans*, in their Decline of Virtue particularly, more than any People upon Earth; the ſatirical Reflection, which the great *Juvenal* applies to them, ſuits us at leaſt with equal Propriety.

Nil habet infelix paupertas durius in ſe,
Quam quod ridiculos homines facit ——

Captains have ſuch a prodigious Chance, in Times of War, and Prizes on the Sea, to make immenſe Fortunes, that their Situation, notwithſtanding any Diſcouragements which attend it, will doubtleſs continue to be thought

thought one of the moſt advantageous, as well as one of the moſt honourable.

I might juſtly be cenſured as a partial Advocate for Seamen, and as an unfair and an inflammatory Painter of their Grievances, if I did not, on this Occaſion, in their Name and Behalf, with the higheſt Terms of Gratitude, acknowlege the Favour and Munificence of the Crown, which reſerves no Share in Prizes for itſelf; but, with a truly Royal Generoſity, grants the Whole to the Captors.

Give me Leave likewiſe to proteſt here, with great Truth and Openneſs of Heart, that on the Subject in hand I neither think, nor wiſh to ſpeak, as a Party-Man. Was it even in my Power, far ſhould it be from my Will, to contribute in any Shape towards diſtreſſing the Government, which Duty much, but Inclination more, obliges me to ſerve. On the contrary, ſo good is my preſent Opinion of his Majeſty's Miniſters, that I ſincerely believe I could not make them a more acceptable Preſent at this time, than a ſtrong, if only not exaggerated, Picture of the Sea. You ſmile, I perceive, *Galba*. Why ſhould I not believe it? Are they not Men of Birth and Fortune? Who more intereſted than themſelves in the Nation's fundamental Security? The Grievances I deſcribe are of an old ſtanding; and the largeſt Share of the Blame muſt neceſſarily fall on the Miniſters of former Times, who ſuffer'd them

them to take ſuch deep Root, and thereby render'd it a more difficult Task to redreſs them. So much greater will the Glory be, ſo much higher the Merit, of thoſe who ſhall firſtbegin the noble Attempt.

Piſ. If his Majeſty's Miniſters will ſeriouſly take the Task in hand, I'm abſolutely convinc'd, *Camillus*, that any ſolid Scheme of Redreſs, which they ſhall propoſe, will meet with no Sort of Oppoſition from their keeneſt Adverſaries. Notwithſtanding *Galba*'s ſevere and juſt Reflections on our vicious Morals, and ſhameful Want of Public Spirit; I will venture to ſay, that there are very few Men in this Country ſo wholly loſt to Virtue, ſo deſtitute of Pride and Underſtanding, as not to wiſh warmly for the perpetual Honour of our Arms, and for the Fame of the *Britiſh* Flag. In Matters of ſmaller Moment, Party-Views, private Paſſions, and ſelfiſh Conſiderations, will, no doubt, biaſs People often, and cauſe them to deviate from the manifeſt Rules of Right, and the plain Dictates of Duty: But ſhould a Point of ſuch eſſential Conſequence to *Great Britain* come to be propoſed, none but a Fool, or an arrant Traitor to his Country, could treat it with Indifference; much leſs endeavour to fruſtrate its Succeſs. Of the Houſe of Commons, our great Repreſentatives in Parliament, I may with Truth affirm, that I never heard of their rejecting any Demand

which was fairly made appear to be for the Good of his Majesty's Navy.

Cam. After this long, but not unnecessary Digression, the most pertinent Share of which you, *Piso*, yourself have contributed; to resume my Subject, I shall remark, that a Sea-Captain's Half-pay, for his Station and Rank of Life, is by much too small a Provision. Some of the bad Consequences of such a Situation have already been taken notice of. I shall add one here, which, I think, ought extremely to be guarded against.

When a Captain has, for a tedious Tract of Time, been distress'd in his Circumstances, and perhaps oblig'd, with his Family, to live like a Person of little Consequence, in some obscure and cheap Corner of the Country; should he come at last to be commission'd for a Ship of War in Peace, after much Solicitation, is it not reasonable to suppose, that he will be strongly tempted to make himself what Amends he can for his former necessitous State, and largely to provide against the Risk of future Wants? Shame hinders me from enumerating the mean, ignoble, and sometimes oppressive Arts of Money-getting, which have been exercised, almost without a Mask, in his Majesty's Fleet. This not only tends to the singular Reproach of our Nation, but has still a more pernicious Effect; inasmuch as it debases the Spirit of Officers; and qualifies them rather

for pacific Schemes of Profit on Shore, than for a rough and bloody Contention with Ships of an equal or a ſuperior Force at Sea. 'Twere to be wiſh'd that this Reflection was not ſo well warranted by fatal Experience.

Would it not therefore be for the Nation's Honour and Intereſt, as well as for the Credit, Advantage, and Eaſe of Captains, if a conſtant and adequate Proviſion was made for them; even ſhould their immenſe and amazing Share of Prize-Money be reduced to the Bounds of an equitable Proportion? Fewer, I confeſs, would acquire large Eſtates, which is a Point not of the firſt Conſequence to themſelves, and of little to the Public: but then the great Majority, whom Fortune does not favour with the like Opportunities, would, by the means of a ſure Competency, be kept in a continual Condition to ſerve their Country with Spirit.——

Flag-Officers have not leſs Cauſe to complain of their Half-pay than Captains. It can in no Shape be deemed a Competency for their Rank. The higher this, ſo much heavier, of courſe, is the Diſtreſs and Hardſhip of their Situation.

I ſhall obſerve, to cloſe my Reflections on this Subject, that while Things remain on the preſent Footing, a long Peace muſt inevitably deſtroy the Spirit and Diſcipline of the Navy to ſuch a Degree, that it will prove a tedious and difficult Task to reſtore them.

them. Even a ſhort one muſt fling us off our Guard, and give great and dangerous Advantages to the Maritime Force, and ſudden Plots, of a vigilant, powerful, and inveterate Enemy.

Galb. Come, *Camillus*, now for the Remedy you promiſed to point out: the Particulars of which I long impatiently to know.

Cam. The Remedy that occurs to me ſhall, without Scruple, be ſubmitted to your joint Examination. It will, I doubt not, appear ſo plainly ſuggeſted and preſcribed by the Nature of the Diſeaſe, and the Situation of Things, that I neither expect, nor indeed deſerve, much Praiſe for the Diſcovery.

Methinks, I perceive an Objection in your Looks, *Galba*. You mean, I ſuppoſe, to ſay; Why therefore was not this Remedy, this mere obvious Work of Reflection, found out and recommended long ago? The Queſtion ſeems not abſurd; although I can with much Eaſe anſwer it. Human Fancy, which affects ſubtle, ſingular, and complicated Schemes, with a wonderful, or rather a wilful Negligence, overlooks the ſimple and uncompounded Dictates of Reaſon. Theſe would be the firſt obſerved, if it was the Faſhion to think plainly: But, inſtead of that, a wild and wanton Imagination generally takes place, which, being whimſically given,

If you will allow me to wreſt an Expreſſion of *Horace* to a more important Meaning,

Tranſvolat in medio poſita, & fugientia captat.

According to my Conception of Wiſdom, it chiefly conſiſts in quitting the looſe and endleſs Errors of Imagination, and in returning to the great and original Road of Truth and Nature; which common Reaſon never fails to point out, when duly conſulted.

Galb. I muſt acknowlege your Conjecture, grounded on my Looks, is hit off with ſurpriſing Luck or Dexterity; for I verily believe I was about to make a Remark of the Sort you mention. Becauſe it was by no means fair to balk me, *Camillus*; to procure myſelf a proper and immediate Amends, I ſhall obſerve, that your laſt Reflection ſtands in need of an Addition or Improvement. When a Perſon once poſſeſſes the ſolid Principles of Thinking, has diveſted himſelf of every little Prejudice and Biaſs, and is reſolved, with undeviating Steps, to tread in the ſacred Tract of Truth; let the Subject be what it will on which his Genius ſhall prompt him to bend his Application, his Progreſs will undoubtedly be great. To purſue theſe Maxims is much in the Power of many Men, and of moſt in ſome meaſure: yet ſo few there are who make it their Buſineſs, that a right and ſerious Uſe of common

common Reaſon will always be deem'd an uncommon Merit. Leſt I ſhould ſeem ſpitefully diſpoſed to baulk the Purpoſe of your Preamble, I ſhall ſtop ſhort my Reflections here: and, ſince you decline Praiſe beforehand; in order that you may proceed directly to communicate your Plan without Fear, I give you my Word that you ſhall find me more ready to cenſure than applaud.

Cam. I'm for a larger Number of Seamen being kept in perpetual Pay, *Piſo*, than has ever yet been propoſed for peaceable Times. You will, I preſume, be ſtartled at the Name of Thirty thouſand: but this I will venture to maintain ought to be the loweſt Complement of our Fleet, if we would make our Peace ſecure and our Menaces of War reſpected.

After maturely weighing the manifeſt Inconveniencies of our former weak Eſtabliſhment, the Difficulty we found to raiſe ſuch a Maritime Force as War, chiefly perhaps occaſioned by this, required; and the prodigious Expence, as well as the great Loſs of Time and Opportunities which attended our neceſſarily tedious Preparations; I ſhould imagine that the moſt zealous Advocates for public Oeconomy would, on that very Principle, be the firſt to recommend at leaſt a double Proportion, *viz.* Twenty thouſand Seamen; as the beſt Baſis of our future Treaties and Tranquillity.

That ſuch an Eſtabliſhment, had it taken Place from the Time of our laſt memorable Treaty with *France*, muſt have been the Cauſe of infinite Savings to the Public, will appear as ſoon as we reflect on the numberleſs Alarms, Agitations, Armaments, which have ſince enſu'd. By theſe not only the Quiet of the Kingdom was often vehemently diſturb'd; and our Seamen, by the Method of manning our Ships, diſtreſſed and haraſſed out of Meaſure; but our Naval Expence, without anſwering the End, exceeded all Bounds.

War at length, according to the probable Courſe of Things, ſucceeded in the room of a fluctuating, half-arm'd, and ill-provided Peace. Had that been either intirely prevented by the Terror of our Condition and Strength; or ſpeedily put an End to by the Weight of our immediate and boundleſs Reſentment on the Sea: we might, inſtead of adding Millions to the Debts and heavy Burden of our Forefathers, have eaſed ourſelves, and made the Load greatly lighter to Poſterity.

Before I proceed further, I ſhall wait for your Objection, *Galba*; which I partly foreſee, but will not anticipate this Time.

Galb. Pardon me, *Camillus:* I perceive no Room for an Objection yet; ſcarce for a Queſtion: becauſe I take it for granted you will immediately give your Reaſons why Thirty thouſand Seamen ought henceforth to be the loweſt Complement of our Fleet;

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ſince you, with the ſame Breath, inſinuate, that Twenty thouſand might have effectually done the Buſineſs hitherto.

Cam. Does it appear to you ſufficiently that the Number Twenty thouſand is preferable to Ten, on the fair Footing of Oeconomy; was even a more material Conſideration, the public Safety, ſet aſide?

Galb. The Reaſons you ſuggeſt are, I think, unanſwerable.

Cam. Should a plain and practicable Scheme be propoſed, *Galba*, for maintaining Thirty thouſand Seamen at the ſame Charge; particularly ſhould it be proved to your Conviction that they muſt, by the Nature of the Scheme, be more in a Condition, and better qualify'd to ſerve their Country; would not you, would not every Man be clear for adopting it? Without waiting for your Anſwer to ſuch an obvious Queſtion, I ſhall communicate my Sentiments on the Subject, in that general Light which I conceive to be the moſt ſuitable at preſent. If the Public ſhould perhaps approve the Plan, and entertain Thoughts of reducing it into Practice; nice and more minute Calculations will be then, and not till then, neceſſary.

I would have the whole Navy diſciplin'd according to the ſtricteſt Military Form; and put upon ſuch a Footing and Eſtabliſhment, that, while a proper Proportion was employed

ployed in Ships of War, the reſt ſhall ſubſiſt in a conſtant Readineſs for the Sea. The Number entertained on board at a Time, in profound Peace, ſhould, as formerly, be Ten thouſand. About the ſame Charge, as near as I can conjecture, might maintain twice that Number aſhore; ſo that a double Eſtimate would ſuffice. While their Turn and Duty required their Service at Sea, they ſhould have their Proviſions and Wages as now; for the reſt of the Time their Wages only, but regularly paid in the moſt conducive Manner to their Intereſt and Demands.

How this Naval Army, while aſhore, is to be diſpoſed of, and what Uſe made of them, will, I preſume, be the firſt Queſtions ask'd. They ſhould be quarter'd, or rather gariſon'd, near his Majeſty's Yards and Harbours, where Ships of War are built, laid up, repair'd, and fitted out: Thoroughly to poſſeſs themſelves of the Knowlege and Habit of Land-Diſcipline, in order that they may be qualify'd for the Field not leſs than for the Sea, will be the Work of Time and much Study. Large Employment likewiſe might the common Courſe of Naval Buſineſs find for them; by which, notwithſtanding an Extra-charge of Proviſions, the Public would ſave vaſtly; becauſe even ſo their Labour muſt come conſiderably cheaper than that of other Men.

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In a more remarkable Light would their extreme Importance appear, as often as a ſudden Change in the Face of Affairs ſhould require great and immediate Preparations to be made, and many Ships of War to be forthwith equipp'd. The Terror of Arms lies here: the Strength and Vigour of ✗ Nations are chiefly meaſured by this Standard; their Condition and Poſture of Offence. What elſe renders *France* ſo formidable at all Times, but that Hoard, that Tempeſt, of War, which ſhe keeps in a continual Readineſs to burſt on her weak and diſjointed Neighbours? *France*, with all her mighty Force, and her mercileſs Manner of exerting it, is not half ſo powerful by Land, as *Great Britain* might long have been, is now perhaps, and may continue to be, without almoſt the Riſk of failing, by Sea.

Piſ. I like your Notion exceedingly, *Camillus*; and, if I miſtake not, the Nation muſt in general. Long has it appear'd to me, beyond all Diſpute, certain that nothing but a ſuperior ſtanding Sea-Force can preſerve our Trade, and ſave us from the Dominion of that inſolent and all-graſping Neighbour, *France*; between whom and *Great Britain* there has been, can be, no ſolid League or Friendſhip. Come Peace when it will, if we ceaſe to conſider the Name of *Bourbon* as our inveterate and irreconcileable Enemy, we muſt in a ſhort Time follow the Fate of *Flanders*, and be-

come an ignominious Acceſſion to that Power which we formerly trampled under Foot; and which, for almoſt an Age paſt, we have, with infinite Expence and Spirit, curb'd and chaſtiz'd.

'Tis impoſſible, in the Nature of Things, that we ſhould much longer bear the Burden of the Continent, and, as it were, alone fight the Battles of *Europe*. An End muſt neceſſarily be put for ever, and that ſoon to ſuch an inſupportable Charge. When once our Situation ſhall be ſuch, what but a firm Poſſeſſion of the Sea can poſſibly defend us? Steadily to keep that, and to prevent *France*'s putting herſelf in a Condition ever to diſpute it, muſt afterwards be the plain, and not to be miſtaken, Policy of *Britain*.

I would ſay more: but I am impatient to know *Galba*'s Sentiments.

Galb. The Boldneſs of the Scheme confounds and amazes me, *Piſo*. That our Seamen ſhould carefully be taught the proper Uſe of ſmall Arms on board, and ought to be there accuſtom'd, in Imitation of the Land-Diſcipline, to perform their whole Circle of Duty with more Silence, Decorum and Method, are Points which I have heard *Camillus* frequently touch upon; and I gueſs'd that his Plan would comprehend ſome Reflections of the Sort. But that our intire Navy ſhould aſſume a Military Form, and be gariſon'd aſhore by Turns; is ſuch a new Doctrine, that you muſt give me Time

o get the better of my Surprize. Own I will to you that I bid fair for being convinc'd eaſily; ſince no ſooner was the Scheme mention'd, but a Crowd of Advantages occurr'd to my Mind, beſides thoſe already ſet forth; and notwithſtanding the cenſorious Humour I am in, I find myſelf now quite at a Loſs for Objections.

Cam. I muſt require you to be much upon your Mettle, *Galba*; and to muſter up your whole Force in ſifting Particulars. Let us view the Scheme different Ways, and examine it in all Attitudes and Shapes; to ſee whether it will ſtrictly ſtand the Teſt.

Galb. You make ſo light of my Threatening, I perceive, that you ſeem to challenge it as a Promiſe.

My firſt Objection is grounded on a Sailor's Diſpoſition and Make; averſe, as you know, to the Name and Buſineſs of a Soldier. By many this will probably be ſuppoſed an inſurmountable Prejudice, *Camillus*.

Cam. As the Prejudice you ſpeak of, however general or ſtrong, has but a weak and narrow Foundation, Cuſtom, and a Change in the Form and Syſtem of Affairs would preſently cure it. Beſides, if the Point is Rank, Seamen ſurely do not loſe that by qualifying themſelves to be more uſeful in their Station; which good Effect, for ſolid and manifeſt Reaſons, Land-Diſcipline muſt unavoidably produce. It will

teach them to proceed in their common Courſe of Buſineſs with leſs Confuſion and Noiſe, and conſequently with more Diſpatch and Execution; in Battle eſpecially, when the minuteſt Attention and Obedience to Command is required moſt. Should Boarding be the Caſe on either Side, their Method of Attack or Defence would be conducted then with a greater Share of Judgment and Succeſs at leaſt, if not with more Fire and Spirit.

Can you reflect a Moment on their being able to ſerve their Sovereign in a double Capacity; by Land as well as Sea, without acknowleging the great Juſtice of the Remark? In an Expedition ſet afoot againſt an Enemy's Sea-Port-Town or Iſland, in offering a ſeaſonable Inſult, or giving an important Alarm; is it not of high Conſequence, *Galba*, to proceed with as little Risk, Expence, and Loſs of Time as poſſible? A ſmall floating, and, if I may make uſe of the Word, an amphibious Army, kept in a continual Condition to ſtrike a Blow, where and when it ſhall be leaſt expected, would carry with it infinite Terror, and do more real Execution than ten times the Number differently ſituated; becauſe Schemes of this Sort, while much Time is waſted on Preparations, and in getting Troops, Tranſports, and Neceſſaries together, are generally betray'd, blabb'd, or at leaſtwiſe ſhrewdly gueſs'd at. They ſet

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out heavily, move with a ſlow Pace; and are always attended with ſuch a Train of Wants and Inconveniencies that no Wonder they ſo ſeldom ſucceed.

A ſtrange Notion prevails about our Sailors, almoſt too childiſh to be taken notice of and confuted, if it was not ſo dangerouſly cried up and believed. Their great and aſtoniſhing Courage is very juſtly celebrated and confeſſed by the whole World; but People, in talking of certain tumultuous Feats atchieved by them on Shore, which were rather lucky than laudable, are apt to forget the wonderful Force of Order and Diſcipline. By this alone a mere Handful of Men will prove more than a Match for a bold but unskilful Multitude of Thouſands. To dwell upon ſuch a Remark would be ſuperfluous; becauſe every Perſon, capable of Reflection, muſt immediately perceive its obvious and inconteſtable Solidity. Much indeed were it to be wiſh'd, that this abſurd Opinion was intirely demoliſhed in the Navy; for fear it ſhould, ſome time or other, be the Task of dreadful Experience to convince us of a Truth which common Senſe had vainly ſuggeſted.

Since it will properly conclude the Remarks which ariſe from your firſt Objection, let me juſt obſerve here, that our Seamen, if duly diſciplined, would abſolutely prove the moſt invincible Troops upon Earth. That generous Courage which our Climate

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and Conſtitution inſpire, joined to the vaſt Fund of Intrepidity that their Manner of Life and their Familiarity with Danger produce, would perhaps, when skilfully form'd and conducted, remain without a perfect Parallel in Hiſtory.

Galb. Will not Seamen, *Camillus*, object to their Situation on Shore? As I know them to be pretty much diſpoſed to grumble; they will, I am afraid, not reliſh being reduced to their bare Pay. Some Addition may poſſibly be proper, as a Compenſation for their ceaſing to be victualled. I mention this as a ſeaſonable Hint rather than as an Objection.

Cam. So ſoon as their Situation ſhall be fairly viewed in the Light I propoſe, I flatter myſelf that neither you nor they will find any Room to complain. Very near Six Shillings *per* Week, punctually paid, *Galba*, can be deem'd no bad Encouragement for People of their Rank; while living at their Eaſe, and unexpoſed to Sea-Hardſhips. When we conſider this not as a competent only, but likewiſe as a permanent Proviſion, or, in other Words, as conſtant Bread, its Value muſt neceſſarily riſe in our Eſteem. Does it appear a ſmall Affair to you, their getting rid of two remarkable Grievances, under which they now labour by Turns; in War paid ill, and in Peace paid off.

At the Rate of four Months in twelve, their Call of Duty will employ them on board. I ſhall venture to ſuppoſe that the King's Yards and Ships in Harbours may find them Work for two more. Thus for one Half of the Year at leaſt they will have Victuals as well as Wages; by which Means frugal Managers would have it in their Power to ſave a little Money for their future Demands; or, if married Men, to ſupply their Families with a needful Aſſiſtance: The Gain of Health, the Profit in Point of Conſtitution and Vigour, which, for Reaſons already mentioned, would be the certain Conſequences of ſuch a Scheme, tho' material Arguments, I ſhall here omit; becauſe you might perhaps look upon them as unneceſſary Repetitions.

Galb. An Objection which I ſhall ſtart now weighs, I confeſs, a little with myſelf; and is ſomewhat of a ſerious Kind. Have we not Cauſe to ſuſpect, *Camillus*, that, by the Scheme you propoſe for them, many would ruſt in their Seamanſhip; and others contract an incurable Liking to the Shore?

Cam. Seamanſhip, as I take it, is a Qualification, which, if once ſufficiently poſſeſſed, a Perſon runs no Risk of loſing afterwards, even ſhould he ceaſe to practiſe it for longer Intervals than thoſe we ſpeak of.

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With regard to the ſecond Half of your Objection; where a Maritime Genius exiſts, a true Paſſion for the Trade, *Galba*; this alternate Subſiſtance by Land would rather increaſe than diminiſh their Fondneſs for the Sea. They would pine after it, *Piſo*; ſuch is their real Diſpoſition, of which you yourſelf muſt have ſeen ſome, and heard innumerable Inſtances.

Once more I ſhall anticipate an Objection which will here occur probably to *Galba*. Such frequent and long Opportunities to cultivate and gratify their tender and domeſtic Paſſions, might, he will perhaps ſay, wean their Hearts from the maſculine and more neceſſary Principles of Ambition and the Love of Country. Leſt he ſhould fancy that I refine his Objection unfairly, by giving it too delicate a Turn for the Character, I ſhall ſuppoſe him only to fear, that, having a ſort of Competency, while on Shore, they might grow too fond of Eaſe and Houſhold Happineſs; and by Degrees acquire an utter Averſion to Labour, Hardſhips and Fatigue. Far otherwiſe am I diſpoſed to believe, that a ſtrong Inclination to provide for their little Family-Wants, the plain, honeſt, and unrefined Motive of Nature, would double their Pleaſure and Diligence in the laudable Purſuit of Profit, Honour, and Preferment.

Galb.

Galb. Although your Conjecture, this Bout, falls wide of the Mark, *Camillus*; it is nevertheleſs not wholly ſpent in vain: inaſmuch as it hints a ſort of Objection, which might otherwiſe have eſcap'd me. Your Plan, I doubt, will, on account of the Snares of Opportunity, be deemed too great a Temptation to Wedlock. Nothing can be further from my Purpoſe, than to drop the leaſt Word in Diſpraiſe of that virtuous Inſtitution, grounded on Nature, as well as ſettled and confirmed by Religion and Law: But the Queſtion is, conſidering the Train of Incumbrances and Diſtractions which Marriage often brings along with it to Perſons ſo circumſtanced as Seamen are, Whether his Majeſty's Service, and the Public Intereſt, might not ſuffer extremely, ſhould this, inſtead of being the Folly of a Few, become the general Faſhion?

Cam. Inſtead of anſwering your pompous, but not well-tim'd Joke, I ſhall, after your Example, *Galba*, mention a ſerious Hint which it luckily ſuggeſts to me.

Not only Seamen themſelves, but the Families of Seamen, deſerve the kind Attention and Care of the Government.

Was a ſenſible Scheme deviſed for ſetting up, near his Majeſty's Yards, Manufactures of Naval Stores, ſuch as might employ their Wives, and their Children as ſoon as able to work; what an immenſe Encouragement would this be to the Seamen of the

Navy! The King and Country, far from loſing by ſuch a Scheme, would probably be Gainers in a literal Senſe: and if we conſider what a glorious Seminary this muſt prove for Ships of War, as well as what a Number of induſtrious Subjects it would otherwiſe rear; I think we can hardly form, in our Imaginations, a more delightful Proſpect.

Let Means only be thought of to produce the Situation I recommend; and, inſtead of diſcouraging and deterring Seamen from Wedlock, by their Circumſtances, we ſhould rather court, and, by the ſtrongeſt Temptations thrown in their Way, compel them almoſt to marry, for their own Advantage, and the great Good of the Public. Among other deſirable Effects, would it not be the Means, in a great meaſure, of ſaving them from thoſe pernicious Diſtempers, which, by frequent Repetition, wear their Conſtitutions out, and deſtroy them at laſt by Thouſands?

Thus, without deſigning it, I have anſwered your ludicrous Objection, *Galba*. With exquiſite Pleaſure I could expatiate on this Subject; and point out a more extenſive Scheme of the ſame Sort for the general Intereſt of the Nation: But it would be deviating too far from the Purpoſe in hand. What I have ſaid already more than ſuffices for the ſudden Hint you ſuggeſted.

Galb.

Galb. Being drain'd of Objections, and ſomewhat ſenſible and aſham'd of the Figure I make; in order to fiſh for a more ſpecious Handle, I ſhall next ask a Queſtion or two, *Camillus.*

Let us ſuppoſe your Scheme ſhould ſucceed: What if *France* ſhall imitate our Example?

Cam. In Anſwer to that, I ſhall put a more dreadful Queſtion to you: What if *France* ſhould ſet it us? Give me Leave to tell you, that, in ſome reſpects, their Eſtabliſhment bears already too near a Reſemblance to the Plan I propoſe. Their Marines, by far the moſt conſiderable Part of their Naval Complement, are of courſe regularly diſciplin'd, and commanded, even on Shore, by Sea-Officers, whoſe Education qualifies them for that Purpoſe. Beſides the Buſineſs incumbent on them as military Men, it is requir'd of them alſo to give their utmoſt Aſſiſtance at Sea to Sailors; and to relieve them in their Duty, ſhould theſe latter not prove ſufficient for the Work; which, conſidering the ſmall Proportion they bear, we can ſeldom ſuppoſe them to be. Such a Sort of Situation muſt, by Time and Practice, render them more and more uſeful in both Shapes; and bring them nearer to the Pitch of Perfection neceſſary.

France, on the ſingle Foundation of her Sea-coaſt Militia, which is extremely numerous; not fewer, if a Friend of mine

informs me right, than 120,000; can increaſe her Naval Force of Men to what Height, and almoſt with what Haſte, ſhe pleaſes. Over and above a large Body conſiſting of Volunteers, divided into Companies, and gariſon'd in Sea-port Towns for their Defence; in the Year 1742. 24,000 of this Militia were regiſter'd to ſerve, by Turns, as Sailors on board, 6000 at a time, for three Months together.

Againſt ſuch an ambitious and formidable Neighbour, does it not greatly behove us to keep ourſelves on our firmeſt Guard, *Galba*; for fear that, ſick of their impolitic Land-Schemes, they ſhould at laſt reſolve to follow the too ſenſible Advice, which a Writer of their own lately gave them; and, in order to make ſure of the Continent afterwards, aſpire firſt to the Dominion of the Sea? That their next War will be chiefly Maritime, if we ſuffer them to put themſelves in a Condition for it, is what, I think, one may, without the Gift of Prophecy, venture to foretel.

Grown, from ſmall Beginnings, and in a very ſhort Space of Time, our Rivals at leaſt, if not our Superiors, in Commerce; had they contented themſelves with carrying on the pacific War of Trade; they ſeem'd in a fair Way, without a Blow, to ruin us. Since their reſtleſs Spirit would not permit them to wait for this ſure but ſlow Machine of Deſtruction; had they turn'd their Thoughts at

once to their Navy, when they perceiv'd us moſt unprepared, and, after providing a ſufficient Number of Ships, with great Expedition and little Noiſe, muſter'd up their whole Force, and ſet upon us ſuddenly: they might perhaps have fail'd; ſince who can bind the merciful and miracle-working Hand of Providence? but no Man that truly loves his Country can even imagine the Risk without Horror. To prevent any future Risk of that Kind, is the ſole Aim and Purpoſe of my Plan. Why ſhould it not be repeated often, and, if neceſſary, let it be proclaimed in our Streets, that, when the fallacious Name of Peace comes, unleſs we keep ourſelves in a continual Readineſs for a Sea-War, we cannot ſleep in Safety?

Should the Plan take Place, our Sailors, when diſciplin'd in Arms, ſetting aſide their native and ſuperior Excellence of Spirit, would far excel the Marines of *France*, for other obvious Reaſons. In every Part of Duty, which depends on Seamanſhip, there can be no Compariſon, *Galba*. There, as well as here, Marines come generally ſo late to the Trade, that they ſeldom acquire Expertneſs. Moſt of them are always aukward at it: whether this proceeds from a certain Apprehenſion of Danger, which they can never intirely ſhake off; or whether, perhaps, ſome things, like Languages, muſt be learn'd while People are young, in order

order to make a durable Impreſſion on the Memory.

They talk at random, who maintain, that a Ship of War, wholly mann'd with Sailors, has a ſuperfluous Number of them; and that if there was One Third, or more, of ſtout Landmen mix'd, it would anſwer the Purpoſe equally well. Where the Complement is juſt enough for Sailing or Fighting; it ſhould, as near as poſſible, conſiſt of Seamen ſolely: becauſe they will not only be more alert in Action, and readier to take ſuch Advantages as Experience ſhall ſuggeſt to their Officers; but they muſt be likewiſe, when bad Weather comes, infinitely leſs expos'd; and, in caſe of dangerous Accidents at Sea, better qualified to remedy them by their Number, Diſpatch, and Skill: which might often prove the Means of ſaving his Majeſty's Ships and Subjects.

In a military Way, not leſs than in Seamanſhip, would they diſtinguiſh themſelves on board at all times. A peculiar Preſence of Mind, and a remarkable Agility, muſt of courſe accompany them on their own Element; where, as *Waller* well expreſſes it,

They tread on Billows with a ſteady Foot.

Galb. I find but one Fault with your laſt Reflections. Another Queſtion, which I was preparing to propoſe to you, will appear now with a worſe Grace. Nevertheleſs, as

I hate to be balk'd, and am, as you know, pretty poſitive and headſtrong; I will ask it ſtill.

Muſt we not conſider it as a prodigal Waſte of Sailors, to keep 20,000 of them idle aſhore in Peace? Extremely remote am I from objecting to the Naval Force which you think neceſſary to be kept in a perpetual Readineſs; much leſs to the Proviſion and Footing you contrive for them: but I was going to ask, in caſe a ſufficient Number of voluntary Sailors could not eaſily be procured, Whether a certain Proportion of well-diſciplin'd Landmen, ſuch as you deſcribe the Marines of *France* to be, might not very properly ſupply their Place?

Cam. Doubtleſs, the fitteſt Time for ſuch a Scheme to commence, muſt be when the War ends. Inſtead of finding it then difficult to retain the Number we want as Volunteers, we ſhould have great room for Choice, *Galba.*

Let us reflect a little on our former unequitable and impolitic Cuſtom of diſcharging 20, ſometimes 30,000 Seamen, within the Compaſs of a few Months: the natural and neceſſary Conſequence of which muſt have been, that of theſe many were preſently reduced to ſtarve at home, or to ſeek Employment in foreign Ships and Services. After compelling People, at an Under-price, to ſave their Country, when that great Work is accompliſh'd, to turn them adrift in this Manner,

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and to leave them to make a very bad Shift for themſelves; is ſurely neither ſuitable to the Wiſdom nor the Juſtice of the Nation.

For many things high Cauſe have we to thank Heaven: but for nothing more remarkably than for the Negligence of *France*, in not drawing a dreadful Advantage from our Imprudence on ſuch Occaſions hitherto. What elſe hindered her from getting Thouſands of our choiceſt Seamen? We muſt not expect that People will ſtay to ſtarve in an ungrateful Country.

Beyond all Diſpute, the moſt ſenſible Maxim we can follow, with regard to Sailors, is to find, in ſome Shape or other, a Fund of Employment for very near as large a Number of them, as we ſhall probably want at any time. This would be the Way for us to make our Trade flouriſh, to vindicate our antient Title, and to claim a real and undiſguiſed Homage, as Maſters of the Sea.

What next, *Galba?* My Patience, as well as my Subject, begins to wear out; and I ſhall very ſoon deſire to be releas'd.

Galb. No wonder you ſhould be ſomewhat out of Breath, *Camillus*; having utter'd yourſelf, as your Subject ſeems ſtrongly to poſſeſs you, with great Vehemence of Voice. It is, I confeſs, time you ſhould have a litle Reſpite: and therefore, inſtead of ſtarting idle Objections or Queſtions (for none material at preſent occurs to me), ſick of my Part, and jealous of the Figure you

make

make in *Piſo*'s Opinion; I ſhall ſhift Sides, and take notice of a remarkable good Effect which your Scheme would produce: an Effect of ſuch high Conſequence to the Public, that, were other Reaſons wanting, it would alone ſuffice for a Motive.

Commerce, and the Courſe of Trade, would reap ſo vaſt and viſible an Advantage, in Times of War, from the Plan you propoſe, that Merchants muſt look upon it as calculated for their Intereſt. Whereas now they find themſelves obliged to give extravagant Wages to People they can pick up any how, frequently to mere Landmen, by which the Danger of the Sea is doubled, and Inſurance neceſſarily riſes; they might then keep their Ships completely mann'd, at a reaſonable Rate, with thorough Sailors, bred up in their own Service, and bound to behave well by the Proſpect of Preferment. In ſhort, they would ſcarcely feel the Diſtreſs of War, when they reflected on this happy Change of Situation.

As our Ships would, in that Caſe, be navigated with leſs Risk, Expence, and Delays; we could afford to ſupply foreign Markets at a cheaper Price: the principal Myſtery, the ſolid Baſis, and the true Support of Trade. Of this the great and deſirable Effects muſt of courſe be, much Wealth to the Subject, a large Addition to the public Revenue, the diffuſive Sale of our Commodities abroad, and, conſequently, the

flouriſhing State of our Manufactures at home.

Having thus anticipated a Remark which you probably deſign'd to make, and indulg'd my Reſentment by my Manner of Approbation; I ſhall now reſign my Task to *Piſo*, whoſe long Silence has afforded him time for various and important Reflections.

Piſ. With great Attention have I liſten'd to *Camillus*, and ſometimes with a ſort of Emotion not eaſy to be deſcribed. His juſt and unexceptionable Remarks ſeem'd ſo clear and obvious to Reaſon, that I frequently conſider'd them as the common unavoidable Sentiments of all. Now-and-then they grew ſo ſuddenly familiar to me, that I was ready to challenge them for mine originally; for dormant Opinions, which his Diſcourſe had awaken'd and worded.

By this chiefly the ſolid Wiſdom of your Plan is prov'd, *Camillus*; that, turn it which Way we will, beſides the great Advantages we look'd for, others of almoſt equal Conſequence appear.

Such a Strength as you deſcribe, gariſon'd on our Coaſt, muſt doubly ſecure us, by Land as well as Sea. What elſe but Laughter would the Menaces of *Dunkirk* and *Calais* afterwards excite? ſince, not to mention our Maritime Guard of Ships, ſhould even an improbable Deſcent of any Conſequence happen; over and above Land-Troops, may we not ſuppoſe 10,000 Seamen in Arms, ſo

ſituated for an additional Security to the Capital, that a Day's March would bring them to rendezvous very near in Sight of it?——

Gariſons near his Majeſty's Yards, ſtrongly mann'd with Seamen, was ſuch a Defence not wanted for thoſe invaluable Magazines of Stores, would nevertheleſs to the Grandeur of the Nation not ſeem ſuperfluous; and ſtill leſs ſo, when conſider'd as Schools of Arms for the Fleet, and as the Nurſeries of Diſcipline and Duty.

There Seamen would have not only time to learn the perfect Uſe of Small-Arms; but likewiſe Opportunities of acquiring the complete Knowlege of practical Gunnery: that henceforth we may not exerciſe our Rage againſt the guiltleſs Sea, but point our Thunder at the Hearts of the King's Enemies.

Cam. I ſhall juſt hint here a Reflection which had almoſt eſcaped me. Such Gariſons ſurely would be the proper Receptacle of our ſuperannuated Seamen; where they might continue to ſerve, with Eaſe and Honour to themſelves, and earn the Nation's Allowance; not eat the mortifying and unſavoury Bread of Charity.

Piſ. Land-Diſcipline would, I think, tend chiefly to the Benefit of Officers. Beſides the common Improvements which they muſt equally partake, it would extend their Notions of War, and whet their Genius for Stratagems. I might here quote, and draw not unſeaſonable Inferences from, ſome great

Exploits perform'd at Sea by Men of mere Diſcipline, who, by their Education and manner of Life, underſtood little of Sailorcra t. But theſe, I know, would be to Seamen in general ungrateful Inferences; and I queſtion much, whether you, *Camillus*, with all your Senſe and Candour, would thoroughly reliſh them.

The leſs am I diſpoſed to force a Compariſon between Land-Diſcipline and Seamanſhip; becauſe I certainly look upon the latter as the more eſſential Qualification of the two. From the whole Tenor of your Scheme, *Camillus*, I am pleas'd to find, that you warrant my thinking the Want of the former an eſſential Defect. So you ſee my jocoſe Hint concerning the dormant Opinions which your Diſcourſe had rouſed, was not altogether without a ſerious Foundation.

Conſtant Duty could not but extremely contribute to preſerve the Spirit of Officers, as conſtant full Pay would contribute to their Eaſe. In ſhort, nothing elſe but *Galba*'s Plan of Education could afterwards ſeem requir'd to make them the moſt complete and the beſt accompliſhed Officers which any Service has produced, at any time, in any Country.

To ſum up my whole Opinion in a few Words; your Plan, in the Light it appears to me, would be to the Public a ſaving Scheme, and is therefore eligible on that

Score.

Score. It must effectually remove and remedy those immense Disorders of the Navy which you reckoned up; and would render that Wooden Wall not only to Commerce an unburdensom and friendly Defence, but a firm and perpetual Bulwark to *Great Britain*.

Cam. Shall we go, Gentlemen?

Galb. Hold, *Camillus*. Notwithstanding *Piso's* premature Encomium, your Task is not yet at an End. I was in hopes that he would have saved me the Trouble: However, since some material Points have slipped him, which lay broad in his Way, you must allow me to resume the Censor for a Moment, and to demand such Explanations as I judge the Public will expect of Course.

How this standing Sea-Force, while in Garison, must be marshalled and modelled; and whether regimented as our Land-Troops, or form'd to consist of independent Companies, is my first Question. My next concerns the Nature, Number, Rank, Pay, Disposition and Command of Officers.

Cam. These are some of the more minute and nice Calculations, *Galba*, which I waved from the Beginning, and considered rather as the Sequel than as a necessary Part of my present Plan. At any rate it would ill become me to be too particular on such high Points, which the Wisdom of the Nation must settle. Was all else agreed upon, and only these remained to be canvassed and adjusted;

juſted; it would be then ſoon enough to ſuggeſt humble Hints. Let a general one ſuffice here. The *French* Model might ſerve as a Ground-Work for large and proper Improvements, better ſuited to the Genius of our Navy; ſuch Improvements as common Senſe would furniſh faſt.

I can think but of one Thing left for your Enquiry. You will, I preſume, ask, what is to become of our Marines? When I ſaid that Thirty thouſand Sailors ſhould be the loweſt Complement of our Fleet, I did not mean to ſtint it exactly to that Number. Should the Government think fit to keep up the Marines alſo, they would doubtleſs be no ſmall Addition of Strength, and might perhaps with Eaſe be put on a more ſerviceable Footing. As faſt as their Officers could be provided for otherwiſe, Perſons regularly bred to the Sea might ſucceed in their room; and thus the whole Corps would by Degrees grow maritime. Mixing them, in the mean time, with the Sailors at firſt, would have a good Effect towards introducing Land-Diſcipline, and the Knowlege of Arms. But theſe, to make uſe of a Sea-Word, are ſupernumerary Remarks, which I therefore do not chuſe to dwell upon.

Galb. Two Queſtions more, and I ſhall then, I think, have abſolutely done, *Camillus*. Do you propoſe, according to your Scheme, that Seamen ſhould liſt, like Soldiers,

diers, for Life? If not, can we depend on a probable Succeſſion of Volunteers?

Cam. According to my Scheme, they ſhould, at limited Periods, not only be free to follow their own Choice; but likewiſe, when worthy, be recommended to the Merchants for Truſt and Preferment, by large and ſolemn Certificates of their good Behaviour. Far from chuſing to quit the Navy, moſt of them would, I believe, enter into freſh Engagements, as ſoon as the limited Time was expired. To replace ſuch as did not, peaceable Times could ſeldom fail to furniſh a Choice of voluntary Seamen; and, if we ſuppoſe a Deficiency, there never would be wanting young Landmen in great abundance.

Leſt you ſhould ſtill ſtart new Queſtions, ſince ſuch a perfect String of them have you got into, *Galba*, that they now come forth by Pairs; I muſt divert the Converſation, and inquire about your Dialogue. Have you finiſhed it?

Galb. A pretty conſiderable Progreſs is made, and I ſhall loſe no Time, *Camillus*.

Cam. Take care I do not tread upon your Heels; for what I ſet about, I love quickly to diſpatch.

Galb. One Queſtion, I perceive, remains yet.

Cam. Come, let us get out of the Park, *Piſo*;

Piſo; we ſhall never elſe have done with *Galba*'s Queſtions.

Galb. While we walk to the Coach, inform us, if you pleaſe, *Camillus*, what Uſe you propoſe to make of your Dialogue, when finiſhed.

Cam. Could my Zeal for the Public produce what I chiefly wiſh for at preſent, a nobler Kind of Deer than thoſe we now ſee ſhould ſport in this Royal Park. It ſhould be the Range of the Seminary, *Galba*. Part of that ſuperb Building I would dignify with an Uſe not dream'd of by the Contrivers. From the Couch and Sepulchre of Age, I would change it into the Cradle, and, as it were, the Forge of youthful Merit. The beſt Schemes muſt have a little Time to work themſelves forward; and if yours does not ſoon take Effect in this Country, there is leſs Virtue left in it than I was willing to ſuppoſe, and than even you yourſelf inſinuate, with all your ſatirical Reflections. No Pitch of Ignorance can hinder People from perceiving the great Importance of the Plan; and if half the Sum which an unfiniſh'd Bridge on the *Thames* has already coſt, would anſwer the Purpoſe, and ſuffice to build ſuch a Rampart of Heroes on the Sea; what will Poſterity think of us, ſhould we neglect the Propoſal?——

With regard to the particular Uſe I may reſolve to make of my Dialogue, I apprehend it will be Time enough to talk of that

ſome

ſome Months hence. *Piſo*, to whoſe Opinion you pay ſuch due Deference on all Occaſions, ſhall be my principal Adviſer.

Pif. Sea-Affairs will probably be the Subject, *Camillus*, of much ſerious Conſideration ſoon. As the Situation, Intereſt, and Conſequence of the Navy grow better known in general, they will neceſſarily come to be more and more attended to. Men in Power, and in a moſt extraordinary Manner, the preſent Board of Admiralty ſhew the ſtrongeſt Diſpoſition, as I am told, to promote eſſential Improvements. If ſo, your Scheme will exactly nick the Seaſon. Things certainly begin to take a favourable Turn of late. A Reſolution is, I hear, come into, that Officers ſhall receive, for the future, a full Year's Wages within the Twelvemonth. They likewiſe talk much of a noble Hoſpital, already far advanced, and deſigned on a very generous and extenſive Plan for the Relief and Benefit of Sailors. In ſhort, the Time I hope draws near, when our Naval Conſtitution, which ſeems hitherto more the Child of Chance than Contrivance, ſhall, quitting its ancient Form of Infancy, with a rapid Growth, attain to the Fulneſs of its Strength and Stature.

Cam. As ſoon as the proper Seaſon of the Year comes, I ſhall, with your Approbation, *Piſo*, publiſh my Sentiments to the World, and ſo leave them afterwards, as

they can, to work their Way. Should Truth and Reaſon ſupport them, they will probably produce ſome good Effect; and if a better Scheme, of the ſame or a different Sort, ſhall be found for the Purpoſe; this great Satisfaction at leaſt can no Man take from me, that I honeſtly mean the Service of my King and Country, without giving Offence to Parties or Perſons.

Galb. Your Task, as a Civilian, *Piſo*, comes next. A Subject for a third Dialogue remains, *viz.* the Naval Adminiſtration of Juſtice, and our Form of Government at Sea. To *Camillus* this Subject will, I dare ſay, not appear of the ſmalleſt Importance.

Piſ. I ſhall conſider it with the greateſt Attention: but I muſt require Time to qualify myſelf for the Task you preſcribe.

Galb. Come, *Camillus*.

Cam. No Ceremony, *Galba*: Step into the Coach.

FINIS.

The author was John Moncrief of N. Britain who had been at Sea as Tutor to a Son of mr Cockburn Lord of the Admiralty and afterwards on mr Bonnar's Recommendation went with mr Ryder as his Tutor at Eton

School, & who on the Death of
his father Sr Dudley Settled on
him for Life Lib 100 a year.
But in 1761 he died at York
on his Way to Scotland.